

## Office of the President

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NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY

August 14, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn, MD, Chair  
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and  
International Security  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
439 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dr. Coburn:

Thank you for your letter dated July 27, 2006, requesting information on appropriations received by Northwestern University from the year 2000 to present.

Northwestern University receives over \$300 million annually in federal research funding, most of which comes through peer-reviewed processes developed by the federal research agencies, so as to ensure that the federal government funds the best possible research with the most applicability to the Nation's scientific, economic, and health needs. Only a small portion of this funding comes directly through Congressional appropriations, or so-called "earmarks." However, we record and treat such grants the same as we would other merit-reviewed grants. Therefore, it will take some research in order to isolate those "earmark" grants and determine the outcomes and data you requested.

I note that you request this information at a time when the University has many staff on vacation and is preparing for the start of its Fall Quarter. As a result, we will need additional time beyond September 1 to provide you with all of the information you require.

For more information, your staff may contact my staff, Jennifer Kunde, Director of Government Relations, who can be reached at (847) 491-8434, or by email at [j-kunde@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-kunde@northwestern.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. Bienen".

Henry S. Bienen  
President